

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 1-12 and consideration of new Claims 13 and 14 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicants have amended Claim 3 *generally* according to the Examiner's suggestions which should obviate the Examiner's objections thereto.

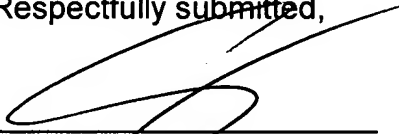
Second, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowance of Claims 10-12 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1 and any intervening claims. In view thereof, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of Claim 10 into newly amended Claim 1 which is now believed in proper condition for allowance. Claim 10 has been canceled.

Dependent Claims 2-9, 11 and 12 which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 are also believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Likewise, new Claims 13 and 14 include the subject matter of Claims 11 and 12, respectively, which the Examiner also indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base Claim 1 and any intervening claims. Thus, new Claims 13 and 14 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record and in proper condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the application as presented, namely, Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references and the other prior art references of record. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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